

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 5, 2007, and the references cited therein have been carefully considered. The allowance of claims 1-8 and the indication that claim 21 contains allowable subject matter but is objected to since it depends from an allowed claim has been noted with appreciation.

Initially, it is pointed out that claim 8 is dependent on claim 9, and thus should have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the same manner as claim 21, which contains the exact limitation as claim 8.

In this Amendment, and although applicants are still of the opinion that all of the claims are allowable over the cited combination of the Cotter and Liander patents for the reasons of record. In order to advance the prosecution of the application, claims 8 and 21 have been cancelled and the limitation thereof incorporated into independent claims 9 and 18, respectively, from which claims 8 and 21 previously depended.

In view of the above amendments and the indication that claims 8 and 21 contained allowable subject matter, it is submitted that claims 9 and 18 are now in condition for allowance. Moreover, since all of the remaining dependent claims are dependent on claim 9 or claim 18, it is submitted that all of the previously rejected pending claims are also in condition for allowance. Therefore, the allowance of claims 9-12 and 14-20 and the passing of this application to issue with claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-20 are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of the application would be advanced by a further personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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